



2021 ECOS Virtual Spring Meeting Agenda
Navigating Change
March 16 at 12:00-5:30 p.m. Eastern
March 17 at 12:00-5:15 p.m. Eastern
#ECOSSpring21

In a time of mounting environmental and budgetary challenges and transition to a new federal Administration, the ECOS platform for partnership and innovation is more critical than ever. ECOS member agencies are successfully navigating change through strategic alliances; creative use of technology; and the sharing of policies and best practices in air, water, land, compliance, PFAS and other emerging contaminants, pandemic adaptation, environmental justice, and more. The 2021 ECOS Spring Meeting will showcase many of these initiatives while marking the start of cooperative work with new U.S. EPA and congressional leaders.

Notes: 1) To promote full audience participation during work hours in all U.S. time zones, ECOS will conduct separate webinars on other days for states-only business.

2) Except where otherwise indicated, all sessions are open to all registrants.

3) Dress is business casual. Wear green on March 17 in honor of St. Patrick's Day – and the environment.

Tuesday, March 16 ECOS Workgroups, Partnering with U.S. EPA & State Agencies, Water, Compliance, & Contaminants	
12:00 – 1:15 p.m. Eastern	<p>Breakout Option #1: ECOS Oil & Gas Caucus (OGC) on Considerations for Produced Water Permitting (open to all)</p> <p><i>States are undertaking a variety of innovative activities on produced water discharge and reuse in order to promote sound permitting practices. Hear from ECOS, NGO, and industry voices on rulemakings, research, and other efforts.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS OGC Co-Chair Dave Glatt, Director, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ Joe de Almeida, Director of Water Strategy & Technology, Occidental Oil & Gas Corporation ❖ Shellie Chard, Director, Water Quality Division, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality ❖ Jim Rizk, Senior Advisor, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ❖ Rebecca Roose, Director, Water Protection Division, New Mexico Environment Department ❖ Nichole Saunders, Senior Attorney, Environmental Defense Fund ❖ Matthias Sayer, Vice President, Legal – Regulatory Compliance, Policy, & Environment, NGL Energy Partners
12:00 – 1:15 p.m. Eastern	<p>Breakout Option #2: ECOS Digital Business Workgroup (DBWG) on State and U.S. EPA Priorities & Virtual Lean Boards (open to states and U.S. EPA)</p> <p><i>This breakout will feature updates from workgroup chairs on key DBWG issues for 2021. It will also include presentations on Arizona's virtual Lean boards and top priorities for U.S. EPA's Chief Information Officer.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS DBWG Chair Victoria Phillips, Director, Enterprise Information Office, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (co-moderator) ❖ ECOS DBWG Vice Chair Neil Chakrabarty, Chief Information Officer, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (co-moderator) ❖ Mike Keyack, Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality ❖ Vaughn Noga, Chief Information Officer, U.S. EPA

<p>12:00 – 1:15 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Breakout Option #3: ECOS-U.S. EPA Partnership & Performance (P&P) Workgroup on Connecting the Dots among Workplans, Strategic Plans, & Performance Reporting (open to states and U.S. EPA)</p> <p><i>This breakout will include a discussion with U.S. EPA on the Evidence Act and the agency's Learning Agenda for Grant Commitments, and on "connecting the dots" between state grant workplans and U.S. EPA's performance reporting to Congress.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ P&P Workgroup ECOS Co-Chair Elaine Boyd, Senior Advisor, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (co-moderator) ❖ P&P Workgroup ECOS Co-Chair Lloyd Kirk, Director, Office of External Affairs, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (co-moderator) ❖ P&P Workgroup U.S. EPA Co-Chair Robin Richardson, Acting Associate Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations ❖ P&P Workgroup U.S. EPA Co-Chair Kathy O'Brien, Director, Office of Planning, Analysis, & Accountability, U.S. EPA Office of the Chief Financial Officer
<p>1:15 – 1:30 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>1:30 – 1:55 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Welcome, ECOS President Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ❖ Roll Call & Self-Introductions, ECOS Deputy Director Carolyn Hanson & ECOS members ❖ Update on ECOS Activities with the New Administration and Congress, ECOS Executive Director Don Welsh ❖ Agenda Preview, Patrick McDonnell
<p>1:55 – 2:25 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Keynote Presentation followed by Q&A: The Honorable Michael Regan, Administrator, U.S. EPA, on Federal Priorities & Partnering with ECOS, moderated by ECOS President Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection</p>
<p>2:25 – 2:40 p.m.</p>	<p>Discussion of MOA Extension among ECOS, the Association of State & Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), and U.S. EPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS President Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ❖ Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Acting Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Research & Development ❖ ASTHO President-Elect Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer, State of Alaska

<p>2:40 – 3:25 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Complex Challenges – Tackling PFAS, Harmful Algal Blooms, & 1,4-Dioxane</p> <p><i>This session will showcase the latest policy and research surrounding three contaminants presenting unique challenges for state and federal regulators– PFAS, Harmful Algal Blooms, and 1.4-Dioxane. Presenters will also offer insight on regulatory best practices and risk communication.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Cross-Media Committee Chair Richard Whitman, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Acting Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Research & Development ❖ Mitch Olson, PE, Environmental Engineer, Trihydro
<p>3:25 – 3:40 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>3:40 – 4:20 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Advances in Air & Water Monitoring – Augmenting Data while Conserving Resources</p> <p><i>The past decade has seen significant advances in the development and use of environmental monitoring technology. Join speakers from states, U.S. EPA, and a technology firm as they explore innovative ways that low-cost sensors and monitors are being put to good use.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Region 5 Executive Committee Representative Liesl Eichler Clark, Director, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy (moderator) ❖ ECOS Cross-Media Chair Richard Whitman, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality ❖ Meghan Smart, Lead Environmental Scientist and Citizen Science Coordinator, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality ❖ Tim Watkins, Director, Center for Environmental Measurement & Modeling, U.S. EPA Office of Research & Development ❖ Meena Sankaran, Founder & CEO, KETOS Inc.
<p>4:20 – 4:45 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Keynote Presentation followed by Q&A: ECOS Missouri Alum Sara Parker Pauley, Director, Missouri Department of Conservation, and President, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, on Partnering with Your State Natural Resources or Conservation Agency and Navigating Change, moderated by ECOS Region 7 Executive Committee Representative Carol Comer, Director, Missouri Department of Natural Resources</p>

<p>4:45 – 5:25 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: New Directions for Inspections – Prioritizing Inspections via Predictive Analytics & Leveraging Remote Inspections to Assess Compliance</p> <p><i>The inspection job of many state environmental agencies has been enhanced through new predictive analytics tools that can prioritize inspections and remote technologies that are being further refined during the COVID pandemic. These recent advances are helping regulators to determine which facilities to visit and to more efficiently confirm that violations have been addressed.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Past President and E-Enterprise for the Environment Leadership Council Member Jim Macy, Director, Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy (moderator) ❖ ECOS Vice President and E-Enterprise for the Environment Leadership Council State Co-Chair Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment ❖ Daniel E. Ho, Professor of Law, Stanford University, Director, Regulation, Evaluation, & Governance Lab (RegLab), and Associate Director, Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence
<p>5:25 – 5:30 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Announcements & Wrap-up, ECOS President Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection</p>
<p>Wednesday, March 17</p> <p>Agency Management, Partnering with Congress, GHG Reduction, & Environmental Equity</p>	
<p>12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Workshop Option #1: Podcasting to Promote Environmental Awareness, led by John Bernard, Host, <i>The New Bureaucrat</i> Podcast</p> <p><i>With podcasts an increasingly popular tool for news and entertainment, they are now making their way into the governmental realm. This discussion will offer tips on how state environmental agencies and other interested parties can use podcasting to spread their message and promote environmental awareness.</i></p>
<p>12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Workshop Option #2: Thriving in the Virtual Environment, led by Laura Watson, Director, Washington State Department of Ecology</p> <p><i>Despite the indisputable negative impacts of the COVID crisis, the disruption also presents a chance for organizations to improve our pre-COVID habits and processes. This conversation will build on previous ECOS discussions of remote operations and explore opportunities to thrive, not just survive, in the post-COVID environment. It will also feature a presentation on Washington's Remote Inspections Workgroup.</i></p>

<p>12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Workshop Option #3: Moving Ahead on ECOS Results, led by ECOS Secretary-Treasurer & Planning Committee Chair Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control, and Partnership & Performance Workgroup ECOS Co-Chair Chair Elaine Boyd, Senior Advisor, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation <i>ECOSResults.org is a state-led performance dashboard that highlights the outcomes of state efforts to protect human health and the environment. Now in their fourth year, the ECOS Results team is thinking ahead about how the site can evolve. This workshop will feature a review of the site and an open discussion on how members can further leverage the tool.</i></p>
<p>1:00 – 1:10 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>1:10 – 1:15 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Call to Order & Announcements, ECOS President Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection</p>
<p>1:15 – 2:00 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Open Discussion: Best Practice Sharing – Boosting Agency Productivity to Get the Job Done, led by ECOS Waste Committee Chair Darsi Foss, Environmental Management Division Administrator, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources <i>State environmental agencies are leaders in implementing new approaches to promote more efficient and effective use of fiscal and staff resources. While ECOS spotlights state innovations at each Fall Meeting, this session will provide an open forum for states and our partners to share ways big and small in which we are working to boost productivity in the workplace.</i></p>
<p>2:00 – 2:40 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Innovative Policy Approaches to Greenhouse Gas Reduction <i>As climate moves to center stage at the federal level, states will continue to play a key role in driving reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Join this panel of state and federal policymakers as they explore strategies for GHG reduction in various sectors.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Dionne Delli-Gatti, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ Janet Coit, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management ❖ Trisha Oeth, Acting Environmental Programs Policy Advisor, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment ❖ Vicki Arroyo, Associate Administrator for Policy, U.S. EPA

<p>2:40 – 3:20 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Groundbreaking Partnerships for Methane Reduction</p> <p><i>Many industries are pioneering voluntary approaches to reducing their carbon footprint. This session will provide an overview of some creative partnerships surrounding methane, including a record-setting carbon capture project involving livestock lagoons and a joint effort by the gas and utility industries to enhance reporting.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Air Committee Vice Chair and Region 6 Executive Committee Representative Jon Niermann, Chairman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ Mandy Tornabene, Vice President, Environmental Services, Dominion Energy ❖ Stewart Leeth, Chief Sustainability Officer, Smithfield ❖ Karen Obenshain, Senior Director, Fuels, Technology & Commercial Policy, Edison Electric Institute ❖ Pam Lacey, Chief Regulatory Counsel, American Gas Association
<p>3:20 – 3:35 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>3:35 – 3:55 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Keynote Presentation followed by Q&A: The Honorable South Carolina Representative Harold Mitchell, Jr., Founder, ReGenesis Project of Spartanburg, SC, on Community Revitalization & Collaborative Problem-Solving, moderated by ECOS Secretary-Treasurer & Planning Committee Chair Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control</p>
<p>3:55 – 4:35 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Environmental Equity – Getting to Know Our Communities & Recognize Disparities</p> <p><i>To ensure that all Americans have healthy environments in which to live, learn, and work, states are pursuing an array of initiatives to provide fair treatment in delivering favorable environmental outcomes. Hear from three states on their approaches, successes, and lessons learned.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS President Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (moderator) ❖ Environmental Research Institute of the States President David Paylor, Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ❖ Serena McIlwain, Undersecretary for Environmental Protection, California Environmental Protection Agency ❖ ECOS Secretary-Treasurer and Planning Committee Chair Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control

<p>4:35 – 5:00 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Keynote Presentation followed by Q&A: The Honorable Tom Carper (D-DE), Chairman, Senate Environment & Public Works Committee, on Environmental Priorities for the 117th Congress, moderated by ECOS Vice President and E-Enterprise for the Environment Leadership Council State Co-Chair Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment</p>
<p>5:00 – 5:15 p.m. Eastern</p>	<p>Final Reflections, Announcements, & Wrap-up, ECOS President Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection</p>